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February 24, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Wireless Microphone Licensing
WT Docket No. 08-166, WT Docket No. 08-167, ET Docket No. 10-24

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to join as one with the many other churches and congregations throughout the United States that have already expressed their concerns that the Federal Communications Commission not forget them in drafting the list of entities eligible for wireless microphone licenses. Cherry Hills Community Church is a vibrant congregation of everyday people who come together in many ways—in learning and faith, in raising kids and strengthening marriages, and in discovering the kind of life God desires for each of us. Each Sunday, and at other times throughout the week, over 10,000 members and visitors gather together to worship and strengthen each other, both through spoken word and music. On Sundays, we also have the opportunity to engage the soul and the senses through music and the arts. In the main services our large choir, vocal team and band lead us in exploring styles from gospel to classical, rock to traditional. We also enjoy video imagery, dance, reader's theater and other creative expressions that offer refreshing ways to connect with God. And at Easter time, we host Denver's largest outdoor Easter celebration at Fiddler's Green Amphitheatre. Even though we are not a mega-church with nationally televised services, we have many of the same needs to reach our congregation through sermons, songs, and other means that require the extensive use of wireless microphones.

Our mix of music and sermons, theatrical performances, and other visual and audio productions require that we have audio and video equipment that perform at the highest levels. Our congregation has come to expect a similar quality of production to what they see at major concerts, broadcasts, and award shows. We also routinely record our services so that our members can worship with us online and through podcasts. We have invested thousands of dollars in high-quality audio and video systems, including many high-end wireless microphones, to fulfill our mission to our congregants. All of the many wireless microphones we use are carefully coordinated in advance on multiple channels so that they do not cause interference to, or receive interference from other users nearby.

It is our understanding now that the Commission has proposed new licensing rules that may preclude churches like ours from receiving a license to operate wireless microphones. If that was the case, our wireless microphones would become subject to interference from any of the new wireless devices being developed to operate in the same frequency bands as our microphones. This would likely include small wireless devices carried by members of our congregation. Such a result would be highly detrimental to our ability to connect with our members, and provide the high quality worship service they have come to expect.

Accordingly, we strongly urge the Commission to include in the list of entities eligible to obtain a Part 74 wireless microphone license all churches that utilize wireless microphones as part of their worship service. We believe that churches are an integral part of the American fabric and should be treated with as many rights as television broadcasters, theaters, and any other entities the Commission might be considering licensing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Scott J. Nelson".

Cherry Hills Community Church

CC:

Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell